

Story 1232 (Dictated)

Narrator: Bedia Kıran, 24

Location: Cumra, kaza town of
Konya Province

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How Karatepean¹ Behavior Named a Pass

One autumn the Karatepeans harvested their sesame crop, and a number of them decided to take the grain to their usual market at Kadirli.² They shouldered their heavy bags of sesame seeds and trudged slowly toward Kadirli. Heavily burdened, they got only as far as the first pass in the hills before they were tired and had to stop to rest. While they were resting, one of them asked, "What are we going to eat when we arrive in Kadirli?"

Another said, "What about a meal of sesame seeds mixed with pekmez?"³

Everyone accepted that suggestion, but then a third man raised another question: "But who is going to eat the bread stick used to stir the grain into the pekmez?"

¹Karatepe is a remote village in the northeast corner of Adana Province. Its people are alleged to be stupid, and their misadventures are the subjects of a great number of Karatepe anecdotes. A resident of Karatepe is called in Turkish a Karatepeli.

²Kadirli would be the logical market for crops grown around Karatepe, for it is the closest kaza town.

³Pekmez is made by boiling grape juice down until it has the consistency of heavy syrup. It is a very popular spread for bread among rural Turks.

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of these men were already hungry, and so every one of them said, "I shall eat it!" This started an argument, and very quickly the argument turned into a fight. They began to strike each other with clubs and stones, and by the time the row had ended, several of the Karatepeans had been killed. From that day onward the pass where this fight had taken place was known as Döğüş Gediği /Brawl Notch/.⁴

⁴Döğüş (from the verb döğüşmek, a variant of dövüşmek) means fight, brawl, battle. Gediği is the objective form of gedik, which means pass, gap, or notch. Inasmuch as this may well be a very minor geographical spot, we have not been able to confirm its existence on either political or topographical maps.